

Cracks in the Concrete

is a journal of anti-authoritarianism, or anarchism. Our philosophy proposes a new social order based on liberty un-restricted by man-made law. A new social order organized on principals of mutual aid and voluntary cooperation. As a result of our loving these principals and desiring peace for ourselves and our earth, we oppose the existence of authority in all of its forms. Anarchism is the theory that all forms of government and authoritarianism rest on threats and violence and are therefore wrong and harmful, as well as unnecessary. The contents of this journal, we hope, serve as evidence to this theory. We aspire to convince, not force. Only authority is interested in coercion. Anarchy is interested in persuasion.

Our anarchism leans neither to the right nor the left. Anti-authoritarianism has no place on the political grid. You will find no adjective- communist, capitalist, primitivist, socialist, syndicalist, collectivist, individualist, etc.- attached to our anarchism. True and total liberation is not compatible with blueprinting a future society.

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Read on.

Cracks in the Concrete

A Journal of Anarchism



This issue...

US Invades US

Fighting a Moralized Culture

Theft is Theft

Thoughts on Reincarnation

More Frightening Authoritarian Abuse

Inclusive Activism

Malatesta

And much more...

Issue #10

November 2008

Editor's Note- 10/18/08

Greetings! Well, looks like Cracks made it to issue #10. It doesn't feel like much of an accomplishment, and honestly, I hope it never does. Once doing this zine starts feeling like a concerted effort rather than a voluntary joy to create I'll know there's a problem. However, I have a pretty strong suspicion that this will never be the case, and that this publication will continue to grow over a much longer span of time than it has so far existed.

This'll be my second issue printed offset, which is pretty exciting. If you're so inclined, smell these pages, and tell me that it doesn't smell better than Xerox copies. That's what I thought.

Quick announcement: CITC is looking for contributions in the form of artwork for all upcoming issues. Scrounging for unoriginal artwork barely feels worth it anymore. So if you're interested in helping out I've created an e-mail address you can send submissions to (without owning a computer, let alone scanner, I can only take contributions in digital form) located below. Be creative, you know what we write about.

Special thanks this issue: Dwight & Fred for teaching me what I so far know about truly independent printing, the Earth First! Journal Collective for letting me use their computers for this issue, and everyone who has contributed with donations, writing, and encouragement.

Stay in touch!

-Luke Romano
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Send a generous donation to following address's to receive

QUALITY ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS

as recommended by Cracks in the Concrete:

The Match!, PO Box 3012, Tucson, AZ 85702
The Cunningham Amendment, 1005 Huddersfield Road,
Bradford BD12 8LP, West Yorkshire, England
Rebel Stew, PO Box 2351, Falls Church, VA 22042

Also check out these zines done by some friends:

Thread Bear- *Funny stories and DIY guides all done in comic form by a very talented artist.* Write Fiona: 6135 Harvey Ave.,
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Frying Popsicles- *General / introductory anarchist / anti-capitalist zine w/ anarchist history, music reviews, and fun layout.* Write Paula: frying_popsicles@yahoo.com

Cantaloupe Antelope- *Writing, poetry, art, and photography all compiled by a nice group of friends.* Write Julia Fructose: 346
W. Evesham Ave., Magnolia, NJ 08049

Dreams & Visions- *A Dionysian Quarterly. Honest, poignant, and concise philosophy and politics from an anti-authoritarian perspective.* Write for D & V care of Dan Todd: PO Box 2626,
Tucson, AZ 85702

though the odds may be against you), gives you a chance at eliminating it. The more people that know, the more people feel the aching empathy for those in need. I don't take back a single thing I have ever experienced or watched or read about. I want to know as much as possible, and I want others around me to know too.

Activism is giving up a privilege so that someone or something in need may seize their rights. Although I generally despise humanity, it's usually because I feel like I am part of such a small minority that my ideals are hopeless. But there IS good out there. We've got you, me, and whoever else is reading this article. Don't ever doubt that the more you understand, the more resources you have. Ignorance is the most shallow and unsatisfying bliss I could ever imagine. Knowledge really is power.

E-mail Becky at: Beckala6889@aim.com

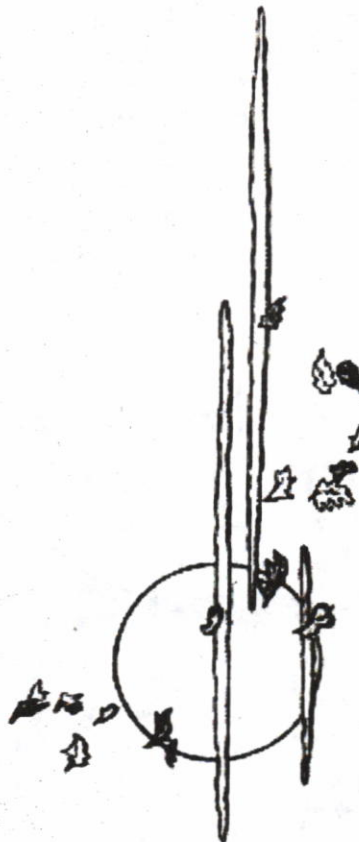


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Anything without a specified author is written by
Lukę Romano

News, Opinion, & Random

Musings

From the Editor

Police murder mentally handicapped man

A report heard on September 26th last month told the story of a mentally handicapped man plunging off of a building to his death after having been tasered by a police officer in New York City. The man's name was Inman Morales and he was thirty five years old.

Inman Morales was standing on a building ledge, naked, and obviously emotionally disturbed. The police arrived and supposedly ordered for an inflatable bag to break Morales fall in such an event. In a violent display of impatience, however, the NYPD police lieutenant, Michael W. Pigott, decided to order an officer to shoot Inman with a taser gun before waiting for the bag to arrive, and so the man plunged into an instant death.

How often do we hear these stories? More importantly, how often do we *pay attention* to these stories? They certainly never hit the mainstream headlines. I mean, who would want to hear a story like this while such an exciting election season production is being flashed on the screens all the time?

The truth is that we have all heard these stories and have not paid attention. We see a police brutality / police murder instance on a back page somewhere and subconsciously accept that there was some kind of misunderstanding or the police must have been acting in self-defense or any other way to hide the truth behind the headline. The truth is that we are living in an ever-increasing police state. We bury our fear. We hide our ability to objectively analyze and we robotically defend the authorities right to exist.

say, a cat. Most humans use this to their advantage by exploiting, corrupting, overpowering, or abusing beings that don't have access or the capability of understanding. That doesn't mean they don't feel the wrath of greed with less intensity.

I think about this question constantly. Would I rather feel pain without knowing the source, or feel pain from a source that I am completely knowledgeable about and yet have no control over? This thought occurs every time I think about animal exploitation and torture, child labor and the general capitalization by enslavement, the impoverished, political prisoners, rape victims, child abuse, etc., etc. Basically any power relationship that you can think of.

But I still didn't elaborate on why I would choose to be a human. I sometimes feel like I carry a heavy burden knowing the extent of cruelty that humanity is capable of. But that is something I just have to deal with. It is MORE frustrating to not know why you are in pain or why you have to watch others suffer. Knowing the source of the pain (even



FUTURE LIFE

BECKY OSENIENKO

If there's such a thing as reincarnation (which I more than highly doubt), I've got my next life all planned out. So just in case reincarnation is real and the Reincarnating Spirit Thing in the Sky is reading this, these thoughts are totally relevant.

Well, here is what I first thought when daydreaming about my future life: FUCK BEING HUMAN! I do not want to be a human. I am ashamed that I belong to the category. I do not want to be knowledgeable about humanity's perversions and the effects of the power hungry. I simply want to float along without a care in the world. I would like to be reincarnated as a jellyfish. I would wander wherever I please and I'd be pleased wherever I wandered. I would search for small fish and particles for food and be protected by my gently undulating tentacles. Since I have no nervous system, pain is literally impossible for me. However, so is pleasure.

But then I thought about my life and what pleasure I would be giving up. I would have no understanding of the joy of friendship, love, happiness, accomplishment, compassion, amusement, nurture, helping others, connection to others...

Anyway, even if I did believe that my "soul" could be reincarnated into another body, I would still choose to be human. Not solely because I have the capability of feeling pleasure, but because I am privileged to know much more about the world around us than,

The reason I chose to help murder someone take up this case specifically is needlessly or that he lost his badge and gun we'll never know. Whether he felt terrible about what happened or whether he just feared losing his job and the pressure and judgment that was bound to be placed on him we'll never know. And whether Pigott was a sadistic murderer or an honest, good man who made a mistake under stressful circumstances we will never know.

But what we will know, what we SHOULD know, is that regardless of who Michael Pigott was personally, he helped murder someone because that's what police do. That's what police do no matter how honest or decent they are as people. Because the simple truth is that when you don a uniform you are not a person but a tentacle of a larger machine.

Power, as represented in an officer's badge and gun, is a force completely and totally incompatible with humanity. This power turns decent, well-intentioned people into brutes, bullies, and killers. It's not the individual I



Times on October 2nd, he shot himself in the head early in the morning and his body was found at around 6 am.

Pigott had been placed under modified assignment without his gun and badge after giving the order to taser Inman Morales. Whether he couldn't stand the fact that he

oppose, it's the position. When I say having police on the street inherently sets the stage for harassment and abuse I'm not saying that your uncle in law who's a police officer is a bad person, don't worry. But I don't want him to be a cop. When he's your uncle I'd like to meet him. But when he's a cop our relationship is kind of already concretely laid out for us. He's the predator and I'm the prey.

So, in conclusion, don't be fooled into automatically identifying and defending the cop as the victim in all situations. We live under *statist rule* and that can sadly rarely be the case.

Don't look upon the anarchist perspective which seeks to abolish cops and every other organ of government / authoritarian rule as personally hating your buddy or family member who is a cop. When we say that all cops are bad we mean that as long as they exist we will be abused, violated and harassed. The uniforms may cover up something vaguely resembling humanity behind the badge but the nature of the beast can never change.

Anarchist organizing
intimidated and
attacked



A favorite American pastime

This year's Republican National Convention held in St. Paul, Minnesota was met with a wide array of protest and opposition. Effective and courageous organizing was being put towards protesting the RNC this year but as always, not without facing intrusive and merciless government repression. Before and during the RNC seven houses and community spaces in St. Paul / Minneapolis were raided. The outcome was indeed grim.

In what looks like the first utilization of criminal charges under the 2002 Minnesota version of the Federal Patriot Act, Ramsey County Prosecutors have charged eight alleged

**Remember last election
season?**

*Well, Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee are at
it again, only with new faces!*

We don't have to choose between the lesser
of two evils. We know that

**ALL POLITICIANS ARE
SNAKES.**

Don't settle to be governed by thieves and
liars. Let's throw them all out. Free people
govern themselves.

This election season, please don't waste
your vote!

**Elect Nobody for President
2008!**

But we can't let it discourage us so much. Soon enough the working class, all the people, will notice the anarchist presence and will be attracted to it. Once we gain some attention, once our ideas are heard, people will start to take anarchists and anarchism more seriously, and pursue it.

-Landon

I hope you're right.

- - - -

Dear Luke,

...Your new skills are definitely noticeable in the new CITC. Well done! I have to say, my favorite page was 24. I laughed out loud for so long! It was just the audacity of your direct address to the reader, as if you were talking to someone haranguing you about your diet (which apparently you get quite often), in such a clipped manner to leave all that white space on the page! I loved it. Instead of doing the usual well-reasoned intellectual argument like all your other articles, you just put a lid on it with one concise and powerful statement. The effect was startling and invigorating.

-Vincent

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We encourage our readers to write in response.
All letters are subject to being printed unless otherwise requested.

Cracks in the Concrete - PO Box 2748 - Tucson,
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"leaders" of an anarchist / anti - authoritarian organizing body called the R N C Welcoming Committee with "conspiracy to riot in furtherance of terrorism". All eight face up to 7 1/2 years in prison.

With the National Lawyers Guild vehemently urging for the charges to be dropped and the obvious absurdity of another case exploiting the magic-T word (terrorism) to target freely acting individuals based on their political beliefs and effective organizing, one would hope that the RNC 8 will manage to maintain their freedom. In the least, their case needs to be viewed as representative of the oppressive times we have always lived in. Remember the 8 Haymarket Martyrs? Now we have another reminder; the RNC 8. There is not much that I can say to do this story justice and urge readers to provide as much support as they can for the 8 but re-print an excerpt from a letter that the RNC 8 has recently collectively released:

"A little background: The RNC Welcoming Committee was a group formed in late 2006 upon hearing that the 2008 Republican National Convention would be

descending on Minneapolis-St. Paul where we live, work, and build community. The Welcoming Committee's purpose was to serve as an anarchist / anti-authoritarian organizing body, creating an informational and logistical framework for radical resistance to the RNC. We spent more than a year and a half doing outreach, facilitating meetings throughout the country, and networking folks of all political persuasions who shared a common interest in voicing dissent in the streets of St. Paul while the GOP's machine chugged away inside the convention.

...These arrests were preemptive, targeting known organizers in an attempt to derail anti-RNC protests before the convention had even begun. Conspiracy charges expand upon the traditional notion of crime. Instead of condemning action, the very concept of conspiracy criminalizes thought and camaraderie, the development of relationships, the willingness to hope that our world might change and the realization that we can be agents of that change.

...What's happening to us is part of a much broader and serious problem. The fact is that we live in a police state- some people first realized this in the streets of St. Paul during the convention, but

many others live with that reality support in whichever way you their whole lives. People of color, can.

poor and working class people, immigrants, are targeted and criminalized on a daily basis, and we understand what that context suggests about the repression the 8 of us face now. Because we are political organizers who have built solid relationships through our work, because we have various forms of privilege- some of us through our skin, some of us through our class, some through our education- and because we have the resources to invoke a national network of support, we are lucky, even as we are being targeted.

And so, while we ask for support in whatever form you are able to offer it, and while we need that support to stay free, we also ask that you think of our case as a late indicator of the oppressive climate in which we live. The best solidarity is to keep the struggle going, and we hope that supporting us can be a small part of broader movements for social change.

For better times and with love,

-the RNC 8"

The legal expenses are estimated at \$250,000 for the RNC 8. Visit www.rnc8.org for more information on providing

The repression doesn't end there

On August 27th, 2008 at around 10:30 am, 5-6 police officers from three different agencies broke down every door of the Long Haul Infoshop in Berkeley, California, guns drawn, and confiscated over a dozen computers. The premises was searched for over an hour and a half, and officers refused to present a warrant until after the search was over and property was seized.

Police broke into cabinets, cut locks, went through mail, and checked lists of people who had borrowed books from Long Haul's community library along with their sales log. This is a painfully clear example of the fact that police and governments will do whatever they want regardless of laws or constitutional rights. Even if it was legal, even if they had a warrant, they sure didn't need any. Cops have guns, just like gangs have guns.

Long Haul has been a community resource for 25 years, providing an accessible

businessmen, and all authority figures" as "types" of human beings, as you seem to think I do. Rather I recognize their social role and how, when it comes down to it, their existence is not only unnecessary but also harmful to a free society. This is a much wider, far-reaching view on the sociology and psychology of authority than "all cops suck", which many mistake to be the extent of the anarchist critique. This social role, in every realm and at every level, turns ANY "type" of human being into a boss, a ruler, a bully. The drive to control and the will to dominate is not characteristic to a certain "type" of human. We all have to fight the urge inside to dominate. On the same token, we must all refuse to bow down in the face of the- as you call them- "good intentions" of authoritarians.

Luke,

...I enjoyed reading CITC #9. I believe it's the best issue yet. I found your News & Opinion section fascinating, especially the article entitled "Drug War Nazism" and the other article "Law Enforcement Against Prohibition". I will never be able to fathom why the true criminals (police, capitalists and the military) continue to run free while imprisoning petty drug offenders.

-Paula

Hello again comrade,

I received your letter and CITC #9 today. ...I enjoyed the article about the case for revolution.

Indeed, it is depressing as anarchists to put so much of our time and energy into our tasks and still see only a minimal amount of change in society or in people's minds regarding authority/ government.

Letters Received

at Cracks in the Concrete

Dear Luke,

I just read the July issue of CITC cover to cover- something I NEVER do (I always skip around, read bits and pieces, etc.) I was very impressed. What I loved most was your voice- you speak directly from the heart, without any jargon or ranting... Your words are simple but true, and are very well-spoken.

I also enjoyed the way you mixed in a movie review and music reviews with other stuff- kept it interesting. Congrats on a great issue.

-Marc

Luke,

Keep an open mind at all times. Remember that all of any group are not bad. All cops, politicians, businessmen, all authority figures, all of any group are not the same and should not be categorized as such. I am not saying you are a black and white thinker, you just can't judge all of any type. Yes, some cops sucks, probably a lot of them, some DEA agents are corrupt, but some of them have good intentions...

-Anonymous

You've not fully understood my commentary on authoritarianism. I don't categorize "cops, politicians,

meeting space for radical groups as well as access to alternative / radical magazines and journals. Long Haul is involved with the production of the anarchist publication *Slingshot* as well as the *Slingshot Organizer* pocket calendar used worldwide by activists and radicals. For more information visit:

<http://thelonghaul.org>

Update- The Autumn 2008 edition of *Slingshot* was just received and it reports:



"...we are bruised but not defeated. In the weeks since the raid, the Long Haul scene and our supporters around the world have rallied. Long Haul remains open the same as before the raid- full of life, events and energy. Many concerned individuals have donated computers to replace the

ones stolen by the police, some of which are still being held hostage in an FBI forensics lab somewhere as of press date. Our resolve to struggle for people over profits, local control, and environmental sustainability is stronger than ever."

NYPD up in arms over juvenile punk band

According to an article from *The Village Voice* dated October 3rd, police in New York City have been pressuring nightclub managers to block the performances of local punk rock band Leftover Crack. Cops have visited several club managers and threatened to shut down their clubs if they allowed the usually controversial band to perform.

The band has complained a number of times, and recently the NYPD has responded. The department opened an internal affairs investigation into the allegations. On September 8th of 2008 two detectives were sent to the house of Bill Cashman, an associate of the

band who helps book shows for them, for an interview.

The band, Leftover Crack, has made a career off of controversial lyrics urging people to kill cops and shock-value displays on stage such as burning models of the twin towers. Songs titles range from "Nazi White Trash" to "One Dead Cop" and "Burn Them Prisons".

Just recently, lead singer Scott Sturgeon was arrested at an anti-police brutality demonstration for throwing donuts at the police present and allegedly chanting "kill the police, kill the police".

Scott Sturgeon's arrest sparked a "melee" in Tompkins Square Park that culminated in the arrest of

three punk kids who began rocking a police car and jumping on the hood. At least one of the punks were tasered.

Sturgeon said himself, "I admit my behavior was juvenile, but the issue is a real free speech issue. We've been harassed by the cops for a long time." Sturgeon faces disorderly conduct and harassment charges.

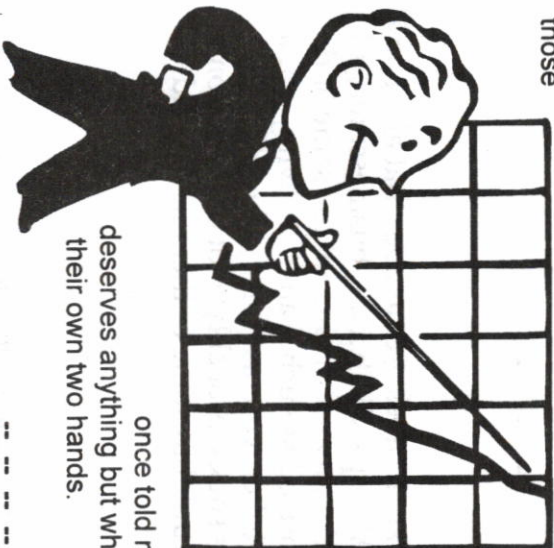
One booking agent said in defense of Leftover Crack's controversial performances that, "It's like performance art. It's a clever kind of pushing the envelope. Leftover Crack does invite a lot of scrutiny but they do serve a necessary role that should be protected by the constitution." This booking agent requested anonymity in



make the previous choices obsolete. I'm not interested in stealing a new way of life. I want to build it.

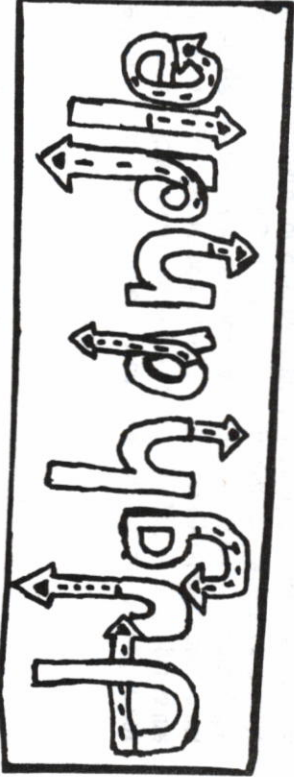
Theft isn't hurting global capitalism but it is in fact hurting activists. An active member of a radical environmental group is currently sitting in jail on charges not for his political actions but on charges for shoplifting. Due to this individual's work, feds were keeping track of all the video records in each store he visited. This made it possible for him to get convicted of shoplifting and sentenced to weeks in prison. If you are doing effective radical work you can bet on it that someone has got their eye on you and they will pounce on any chance they can get to put you away. It makes sense to me that if you are one of those people and you are going to do something illegal, make it count!

Theft cannot be an accepted practice in a future anarchist society and therefore should not be a part of current struggles, regardless of what parties are being stolen from. How can we dream of a society based on respect and mutual aid while taking something for nothing? Of course corporations steal all the time and they don't deserve to be respected. I'm not speaking of respect for the property of those



once told me that nobody deserves anything but what they create with their own two hands.

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Theft is Theft

Douglas Fur

Throughout my time being introduced to and participating in the anarchist movement I have come across quite a few people who practice theft as a way of providing for themselves. Folks often pat themselves on the back for stealing saying that they are somehow evading the capitalist system or helping to "bankrupt corporate america".

How does this behavior fit into our vision for a free society? Is stealing that candy bar from Wal-Mart really going to send the walls of industry crumbling down? Well frankly, no, it's not and theft has no place in our goals because it's not benefiting off of a sustainable skill but instead benefiting off of a privilege that is made possible by the tyrannical devils we claim to oppose. Buying or stealing, you are a consumer.

The notion that petty theft is a tactic for taking corporations down a notch is a downright fallacy. Large vendors plan to be stolen from and they budget their funds to accommodate for theft. Theft losses aren't coming out of any higher-up's pockets, instead it's more likely to leave the pockets of the workers. So when you steal you won't be holding any CEOs or stock holders back from buying that new BMW but you might be holding back some underpaid single mother from making next month's rent. Corporations simply have too much power and resources to ever be hindered by shoplifters. Even if theft was happening on a large enough scale to actually be threatening there's no doubt in my mind that your local grocery would start looking like a high security prison before you can say "five-finger discount". Change comes through better alternatives that

his statement due to fear of attracting police attention to himself.

Personally, I've seen the band more than a couple times myself. I'm not interested in giving my opinion on the band but I am really curious regarding what "necessary role" they serve. They've never killed cops or committed acts of terrorism. They've made their name off of immature shock and awe statements and displays instead of tying their lyrics into the larger political standpoints they supposedly come from.

Regardless, whether Leftover Crack or their fans behavior serves any purpose in the punk scene or not is irrelevant to the fact that no musical group should have to be so targeted and harassed by law enforcement, no matter what they say on stage or in lyrics. It is indeed a free speech issue, no matter what your opinion of Scott Sturgeon's behavior may be. And free speech is one of those things we supposedly care about and value in this country, right? I could've sworn I heard that somewhere once. Wouldn't be surprised if I misheard, though.

United States army invades the United States

As a report on Democracy Now! (Oct. 7th, 2008) investigated, US troops have now been deployed onto US streets. This completely unnoticed development is (yes) yet MORE evidence for the US as a rapidly growing fascist regime. The troops mark the first deployment of a military unit for NORTHCOM, the Northern Command, which was formed in October 2002 in order to "provide command and control of Department of Defense homeland defense efforts." What does this mean?

The US Army stationed the Infantry Division's 1st Brigade Team, recently returned home from Iraq, in the United States to train for "domestic operations". The unit's purpose is to serve as an "on-call federal response for large scale emergencies and disasters". They call this the "Consequence Management Response Force" or CCMRF.

A preliminary news report in the *Army Times* last September noted that this new domestic military force "may be called upon to help with civil unrest and crowd control." This statement was

taken back in a September 30th press release, but it still exposes where the hidden intent lies.

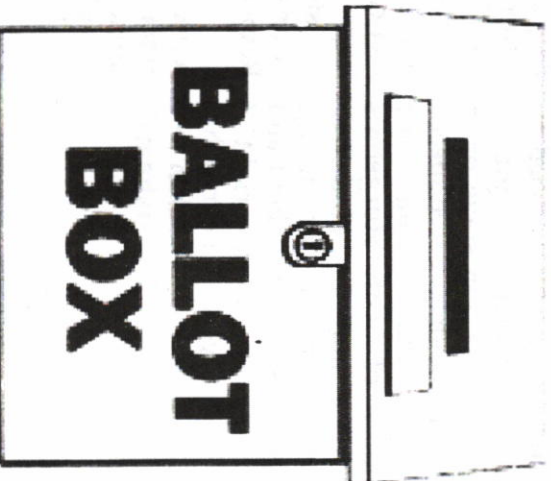
According to Army Colonel Michael Boatner, "They ultimately have weapons, heavy weapons and combat vehicles..." He makes sure to ease any potential suspicion that may arise out of rational-minded people by assuring us that, "It's about saving lives, relieving suffering, mitigating great property damage to infrastructure and things like that..."

Ooh, I see what this is about. Now our next "large-scale disaster" that occurs in this country can be dealt with by declaring martial law in a much more efficient, more accessible way for these deranged militarists. Because as we all know, force and violence are the *only* ways to deal with disaster and emergency! At least, the only ways that crazed governments can comprehend.

I got a question or two for you, reader. If your house was destroyed in a hurricane and your community was in need of coming together in a peaceful,

orderly fashion, would you need or feel safer with soldiers occupying your town? Militarism answers to one God: state control, authoritarian imperialism. There is no such thing as benevolent militarism. When it comes to disaster and emergency, military force is simply not compatible with relief, aid, and / or peaceful solutions.

Another question that always seems to grow in relevance is: in the event of massive demonstrations in the streets somewhere / sometime in this country, which seems to be a major concern of the rulers as is evident in the large-scale displays of force and intimidation this past DNC



course I know what IT is like to feel pushed around, judged and placed in a box that has labels on it, to scream and stomp about having just as much right as the men at my job to get what his working pay was, to have my art and writing to not be down-played 'cause it was too emotional or feminine, to be demeaned by the boys at school for speaking my mind, by the fucking cops who think a petite woman like myself would not know her rights? Or for all the assholes who took advantage of me- sexually and emotionally.

But that wasn't the IT altogether. I know what IT is like also because I was born Jewish in a very non-Jewish town, where a swastika was drawn on the playground with my name written above it in fourth grade. Where I was told time and time again to "stop being a fucking Jew" anytime some guy friend got annoyed with me.

It's all the negative and oppressive actions and words that we experience personally that make us want to fight the injustice in the world. Having experienced such harsh rejection from my peers, and having witnessed these judgments on much larger scales definitely helped to make me identify with others whose struggles felt either just as significant or much greater than my own. And it definitely helped to make me very comfortable to be outspoken about the way our society is overtly hypocritical and judgmental. It makes me want to puke, and it makes me want to stand in solidarity with everyone who faces these injustices, both in my community and around the world.

I believe in inclusive activism because I believe in an anti-authoritarian, anti-fascist, class-less and autonomous society. Just because a friend of yours is not vegan or straight-edge or queer, or decides to have a baby or get a job for a minute- doesn't necessarily mean they aren't your comrade.

The point is that as activists there is too much separatism happening in social circles and organizing. I think that looking at the bigger picture of what we are fighting FOR will leave us stronger in the battles that we are individually fighting AGAINST. My wish is to be an ally to radicals who, chances are, 8 out of 10, have the same ideas on how to step away from a racist, destructive and capitalist based lifestyle and into a self-sustainable, fuck-the-state, DIY, in-it-to-win-it community-based lifestyle. And, even if I am a straight white girl who believes in fairies, I sincerely fucking hope that we could still have each others' backs.

... ..

and RNC, do we need more violent suppression or do we need tangible change?

The answer is *always* the latter. But let's face it, the governments and the rulers know how bad things are getting. They know that people are waking up, here and there, to a realization that economics are a fraud, to a realization that our planet is being killed and those who are killing it do not care and are doing so willingly for their own profits.

Most citizens are blind enough to vote this coming election and consider their duties to the world fulfilled, but the government is always wary that one day the ballot box will not hide the real issues and necessities in the eyes of its legitimizing population. Social revolution is near impossible in America, but that doesn't stop the authorities from preparing for it constantly. The potential for martial law and military occupation of our communities has been set.

Not as though anyone will have a harder time sleeping at night, of course. The ballot box is indeed cheaper than the gun today,



Mainstream media can be funny, sometimes

In much, much lighter news a local paper here in Tucson, Arizona recently did a piece on our local anarchist infoshop / collective space. Like many supposedly "community - oriented" and totally biased newspapers, *The Tucson Weekly* does an annual "Best of 2008" feature consisting of a copious amount of "Staff Picks". To the surprise of everyone associated and involved with The Dry River Radical Resource Center the "Best..." feature included Dry

I was living in Chicago for the most part of this year and experienced an intense 6 months of gender politics. I'm thankful for the last 6 months for teaching me so much about the struggles of my comrades who are fighting the everyday oppression of a society which sees gender bending and queer lifestyles as totally taboo and illegitimate. In April a convergence was happening in the city and I knew that I wanted to be an ally to my queer friends- to continue to take a strong stance with our freedom of sexuality and a belief in breaking boundaries wherever they may exist. One of the most uplifting aspects of a life so radicalized and outside the norms of society is to make our own rules. Lets make and break them over and over again!

I wanted to be supportive of my friends whether or not I was dealing with being a "female bodied person" who identifies as being male and prefers male pronouns. Or whether or not I was openly bisexual and was tired of people judging me for dating a girl and then dating a boy in my next relationship. It never occurred to me that it was necessary to fit into a queer category to be a comrade to those who do.

I was told differently on a number of occasions, specifically told that "I didn't understand what IT was like," so how could I be supportive? This shook the ground I keep firm feet upon. Friends making me feel like an outcast 'cause I have never slept with a woman rattled me.

I kept thinking about this "not knowing what IT was like" statement thrown in my face. It's true, I didn't know what IT was like to want to kiss my girlfriend in public but worried that the old woman at the bus stop would say something rude that made me feel horrible and not want to display my feelings in public. Or I didn't understand what IT was like to have conservative parents who would never accept me 'cause I was gay and they were morally against same-sex relationships.

That's true, I don't know what their struggles feel like, necessarily. Except I have certainly had my own battles within and experiences where my family and friends were all waiting for me to come out of the closet- to be honest with myself about my sexuality. For many years I was waiting around for my intuitions to tell me whether or not I was gay or straight. I guess in the end, I am more straight than gay- but how the fuck does that interpersonal question prevent me from identifying with anyone in the radical community?

It plagued me why I was so crushed by the "not understanding what IT was like" statement, always leaning on my feminist roots and concluding that, of

River as Tucson's "Best Anarchist Collective".

My first thought when seeing the article was of a strange visitor to the weekly collective meetings about a month previous who sat in relative silence, writing down things people said, vaguely explaining that he was "writing Dry River up for something".

Towards the end of the meeting the guy asked, "So... what is it that you guys really do?" One of us gave the guy what we thought was a nice run-down of what Dry River and anarchists in general are all about. All though apparently that didn't help him very much, because the piece that came out a month later was laughable to say the least. It read as follows:

ages punk shows and radical film screenings-but it's the free education that caught our eye. They offer classes in English, Spanish and silk-screening; they're also open to new ideas.

One collective member decided to respond to the well-intentioned but narrow and goofy write up. His response letter was meant to be humorous and sarcastic but also explain Dry River's fuller extent. It was consented on by a meeting of about 15 people to use. Below is a shortened version of his letter:

Dear Tucson Weekly,

Thanks for the mention in the Best of Tucson. We're looking forward to beating the pants off the other Anarchist Collectives in this year's nationals! Seriously though, it was nice of you to let folks know we exist...

Anarchy may have gone out of style with the passing of St. Joe Strummer, but here in Tucson, there are still a few flying the black flag. What they do is kind of a mystery. We know they take camping trips, practice consensus decision-making and, mainly, facilitate a space called Dry River. Dry River commandeered the Best of Tucson title by giving radicals a place to organize, create and share. Like any good anarchist collective, Dry River has a zine library and a free store, hosts all-

We know coming to one of our weekly meetings doesn't really shed much light on "what we do." That's probably because a lot of the routine maintenance and such isn't discussed too often anymore. Also, it was summertime and you know almost everything slows down around here.

Besides facilitating a book and zine library, computer lab, free

Inclusive Activism

By Olive Oyl

The word 'activist' is broad and general. As 'activists,' or even as 'radicals,' we don't always organize under the same principals, work day/minimum wage or other obstacles and ideals that help to shape our politically progressive lives.

I don't think that activists need to be in agreement on every issue under the sun, in fact I think that it's equally fascist (pardon my language) to assume that if someone wears a circle A than they have to view the world the same as you.

The unfortunate situation we face, though, is that there are times when our personal politics make it seem that we are, also, not fighting the same root causes.

It's important to see the common threads that weave activists together, on a broad scale. Anti-war, anti-militarism, equal rights for all species, workers rights and equal pay, fighting against the prison system and police brutality, fighting for the environment and working towards sustainable lifestyles.

These wide-ranging and far-reaching issues don't seem to produce enough glue to hold the worldwide activist culture together. There, in fact, appears to be a lot of separatist, dogmatic, and conformist projections among activist circles concerning issues such as veganism, SxÉ, gender politics, and breeding.

Our personal beliefs are most certainly the strong suit, tie and hat that allow us, as individuals, to work every day of our lives with the integrity to fight for what we believe in. I believe that one of the most essential roles we play is to be as less contradictory and as much honest to our movement and ourselves as we have the ability to be.

What's equally important is to respect our fellow partners in the battle. To give reverence to the 'personal path' that has lead each one of us, as individuals, into an active and radical life. That which gives us courage to fight against an oppressive society. A society that also projects upon us their vision of the right and wrong ways in which we should live our lives.

not. So let loose, enjoy yourself, and if you're concerned about a habit or problem someone you love has, PLEASE realize that the ONLY thing you can to aid them is to *love* them. NOT judge them. You must always ask yourself, "Am I trying to hurt or harm someone in this situation? Am I thinking of myself or am I sincerely thinking of this person's well-being?"

The fight against a moralizing culture is a fight against state control, religious domination of the mind, and letting our egos get in the way of what those we love really need. It is a complex, intertwined battle, but one that is so important for so many reasons. Straight edge is indeed a subculture manifestation of these larger monsters and it too must go. There is still something largely revolutionary about love, and I strongly believe it lies somewhere around these issues.



TO MORALIZING BEHAVIOR. SAY YES TO
COMPASSION.

IN THE LEAST,

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

store, free classes, a monthly event on consensual sex, weekly discussion groups, about ten music shows per month and staffing "Open Hours" 4 days per week, we have shown films, hosted speakers and shared information on numerous justice movements, raising funds and consciousness for groups here in Arizona, and as far away as Israel/Palestine, Southern Mexico and New Zealand. We also have jobs, go to school, play music, make art, write, skate, have lovers and families, travel and work on other projects here in Tucson... Hopefully this gives you all a clearer picture of "what we do."

Also, we were wondering what the reference to Joe Strummer meant. He had political and class consciousness, but we never knew him to be an anarchist. Besides that, anarchist collectives have been growing all over the world, especially since 1999's big blowout in Seattle, the official start of the never-ending "War on Terror" and increasing global capitalism and militarization of borders. So we really just didn't get that whole opening. You realize that the Sex Pistols didn't invent Anarchy, right?

*Thanks again,
Dry River Collective*

What does economic collapse mean for anarchists?

I appreciate optimism, but only when it's practical. I simply can't find any reason why all "the people" will turn to anarchism based on poor economic conditions, as many anarchists would like to believe. The masses didn't turn to anarchism in 1929, did they? What do people really turn to when economies collapse and worlds are torn apart? There was a substantial anarchist presence in 1929, with the murders of Sacco & Vanzetti still in the back of everyone's minds, but somehow a totally brainwashed and conditioned society remained brainwashed and conditioned after the stock market fell. That's because the root of oppression is not only economic, it's authoritarian, and that's why I distance myself from left-leaning anarchism.

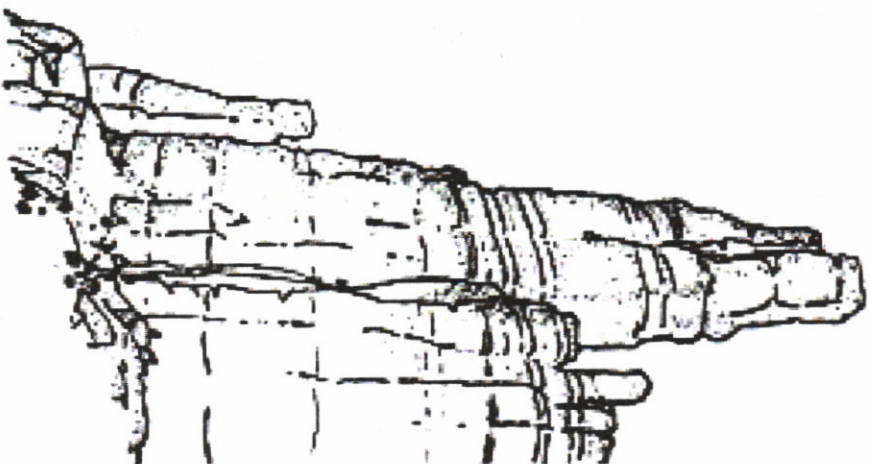
That is also why I cannot foresee anarchy blossoming "on the ashes of the old" but rather sprouting from the present. Destruction means nothing unless it is the result of creation, not the other way around.

The way some anarchists refer to the

inevitable "collapse" is eerily similar to the way insane evangelicals rave about the "apocalypse". In fact, with the recent Wall Street bailouts dominating the headlines I've learned that a number of evangelical groups now believe that when the economy falls apart the Second Coming will follow. Uh-oh, looks like we've found at least one group that won't be turning to anarchy anytime soon.

What I'm trying to say is that power, as a concept, must be phased, not instantly eradicated, out of everyone's minds to reach an anarchist future. Humanity will not wake up in the event of total economic collapse. Even if civilization in its entirety fell tomorrow, cops would still exist in our minds and we would have to fight it like we do today. This is not meant to be discouraging. I am not discouraged in the least! And I don't want anyone else to be. I want to be realistic when it comes to organizing and advocating for a radically different and more peaceful world. I'm encouraged and given hope when it comes to the daily autonomous situations and interactions that manifest themselves and prove that

what we need is right here. The potential to create is far more inspiring to me than the outstanding faith it requires too depend on the system's fall to wake people up.



infected with moralizing attitudes, usually based in the natural human tendency to judge others based on our own personal decisions. The ego route.

There are so many reasons why we are afraid to simply love someone who is struggling with a problem. One of the reasons is that alcohol and drug problems are self-imposed and it is easy to be angry at someone for doing that to themselves because, well, I'M not doing that myself, so why are THEY? If I can be healthy and take care of myself, why can't THEY? Plus, hell, they're sinning! Lazy, good for nothing bum...

This ego / cultural-backed game can last forever, and it will continue to be harmful until it ends. Until we realize that it doesn't matter how great we are compared to someone else with a problem we don't have. It is a matter of compassion, and love.

When it comes to the larger culture and combating the institutional forms of a moralizing society we need to recognize the evils of a War on Drugs and



we need to recognize the harmfulness of irrational religious ideas that tell us to hate everything pleasurable and judge others based on that.

So, please, none of us are such great people that we can look down on others for their personal habits or health problems. You really aren't that great. I know I'm

unbiased reality. However since religion has imposed itself as one of the institutional pillars to be feared in most cultures, religious concepts (indulgence as sin being just one) has trickled down through history to today where many hold this view but do not necessarily align it with any religion. To judge based on this concept is extremely common. Unwise decisions = immoral decisions in the minds of many. But this is a false concept. Sin does not exist, and there is nothing wrong or immoral about pleasure.

Health risks are a *completely* different story.

The second source comes from the common mistaken natural path of letting our ego taint our view of others. This happens when we make decisions based on our personal interest or personal health (such as not drinking or doing drugs) to improve ourselves BUT take that personal decision one step further by first, wondering why no one else has done the same and second, finding those who are not inspired to make that decision for themselves to be less than you in at least one way, hence moralizing. This reason is less cultural, like the first source, and more of a natural human tendency.

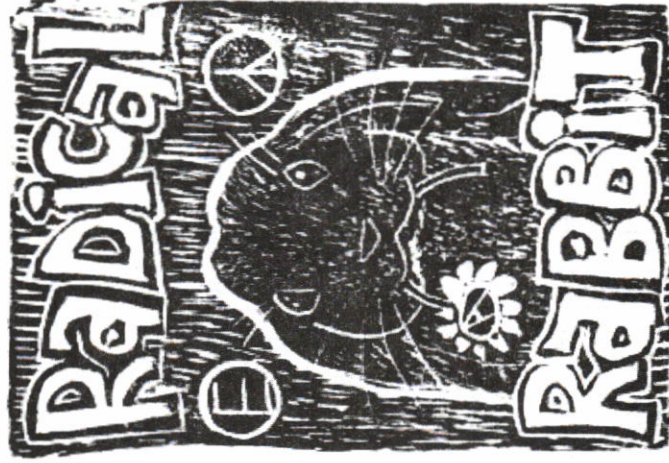
Both sources, cultural or natural, have created this social demon we call moralizing. They both work together in society most of the time. This social force accomplishes much more than simply pissing people off (which of course it does). It sets the social stage to eliminate the love, empathy, and compassion that struggling people need in order to confront the root causes of their problem.

These healing qualities- love, compassion, and empathy- are the total antithesis of a moralizing society. They barely have room to breath in today's world wrought with religious moral judgment, fascist drug laws, and silly subcultures like straight edge. Even many of us who reject religion, oppose state-imposed prohibition, and find straight edge irrelevant are still

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Old School Anarchist Propaganda Section

Excerpts from Errico Malatesta's

- 1891 essay -

Anarchy

Anarchy is a word that comes from the Greek, and signifies, strictly speaking, "without government": the state of a people without any constituted authority.

...Man, like all living beings, adapts himself to the conditions in which he lives, and transmits by inheritance his acquired habits. Thus, being born and having lived in bondage, being the descendant of a long line of slaves, man, when he began to think, believed that slavery was an essential condition of life, and liberty seemed to him impossible. In like manner, the workman, forced for centuries to depend upon the goodwill of his employer for work, that is, for bread, and accustomed to see his own life at the disposal of those who possess the land and capital, has ended in believing that it is his master who gives him food, and asks ingenuously how it would be possible to live, if there were no master over him?

In the same way, a man whose limbs had been bound from birth, but who had nevertheless found out how to hobble about, might attribute to the very bands that bound him his ability to move, while, on the contrary, they would diminish and paralyze the muscular energy of his limbs.

on straight edge as being an "underground" subculture re-manifestation of mainstream culture's drive to moralize as a form of social domination. Not only is this a force of arrogance and unjust personal judgment but it also is a failure if it intends to somehow aid those struggling with drug problems. Straight edge is especially a joke if it thinks that by separating friends and family with moralistic behavior it can somehow change or help those with alcohol / drug issues. The sad reality is that this type of behavior is ultimately just as harmful to the struggling addict as the substances that has put him / her where he / she is.

In any case, beyond my commentary purely on straight-edge, I'm much more interested in analyzing the larger culture it is derived from.

So, when it comes down to when and how people arrive at a place in which they think it is okay to look

down upon someone for their own personal decisions to do drugs I have noticed two main sources of this in our culture:

The first source comes from religion- almost every single religion I've studied. This is the



Just another judge

concept of indulgence as sin. To indulge is weak and sinful. And if sin is not a basis on which to judge others than I do not know what is. We will all be judged by God (or whatever other name exists in other cultures) based on our sins. Indulgence as *anything but* mere pleasure with, maybe, some risks we should be conscious of has absolutely no basis or standing in an

FIGHTING A MORALIZING CULTURE

By,
- Luke Romano -

To begin, the term straight edge, as used here, may misrepresent people who identify with the label. I use the term to separate those who've decided not to drink and do drugs as a personal decision and those who would argue that to not drink or do drugs is not purely personal- those whose straight-edge beliefs are a basis on which to judge or moralize the actions of others. The distinction is important if the word isn't. I know some people who identify as straight edge who hang out with those who don't and the difference in personal habits doesn't matter to them. And I also know people who would never call themselves straight edge who are some of the most judgmental people I've ever met. For my purposes, however, I will use the word in a negative light for the very reason that it describes a philosophy that has many flaws, even if there are some who do not ascribe to the mindset I reference here and use the word only out of convenience in social situations.

Does this sound trivial so far? It would to me if I only read this far and stopped. But the distinction is so important to me that it must be cleared up before I go on about anything else. I hope to portray my observation

If then we add to the natural effect of habit the education given to him by his master, the parson, the teacher, etc., who are all interested in teaching that the employer and the government are necessary, if we add the judge and the policeman to force those who think differently

-- and might try to propagate their opinion -- to keep silence, we shall understand how the prejudice as to the utility and necessity of masters and governments has become established. Suppose a doctor brought forward a complete theory, with a thousand ably invented illustrations, to persuade the man with bound limbs that, if his limbs were freed, he could not walk, or even live. The man would defend his bands furiously and consider anyone his enemy who tried to tear them off.

Thus, if it is believed that government is necessary and that without government there must be disorder and confusion, it is natural and logical to suppose that anarchy, which signifies absence of government, must also mean absence of order.

... Anarchists generally make use of the word "State" to mean all the collection of institutions, political, legislative, judicial,



Above: Errico Malatesta (1853-1932), avid revolutionary and founding anarchist thinker.

military, financial, etc., by means of which management of their own affairs, the guidance of their personal conduct, and the care of ensuring their own safety are taken from the people and confided to certain individuals, and these, whether by usurpation or delegation, are invested with the right to make laws over and for all, and to constrain the public to respect them, making use of the collective force of the community to this end.

In this case the word "State" means "government," or, if you like, it is the abstract expression of which government is the personification. Then such expressions as "Abolition of the State," or "Society without the State," agree perfectly with the conception which anarchists wish to express of the destruction of every political institution based on authority, and of the constitution of a free and equal society, based upon harmony of interests, and the voluntary contribution of all to the satisfaction of social needs.

...But what reason is there for the existence of government?

Why abdicate one's own liberty, one's own initiative in favor of other individuals? Why give them the power to be the masters, with or against the wish of each, to dispose of the forces of all in their own way? Are the governors such exceptionally gifted men as to enable them, with some show of reason, to represent the masses and act in the interests of all men better than all men would be able to act for themselves? Are they so infallible and incorruptible that one can confide to them, with any semblance of prudence, the fate of each and all, trusting to their knowledge and goodness?

Anarchy by Errico Malatesta in its entirety is currently available from Freedom Press in England, "the world's oldest anarchist publisher":
www.freedompress.org.uk

YOU HAVE NO RIGHTS

I have no rights. You have no rights. In its relation to governmental authority, the concept of rights is completely absurd. This is because rights are strictly relative to the existence of any form of authority, for with a lack of oppressive authority no system is needed to ensure them. What we think of as "rights" under statist rule is nothing more than the liberty that comes free and natural when simply accompanied by existence. Without government. Without authority.

Laws are cobwebs for entrapment and control. When we think of a law as protecting us from abusive authority we miss the point totally- freedom is attainable only when we create it with our own hands, and is never possible if left in the hands of a higher power. No matter what rights we are awarded by governments, they are unnecessary and only add to the power thus far amassed by the ever-so-gracious system.

Do not be grateful for anything they give you. Respect the authority you have over yourself and nothing else. We can build everything we need and desire. *The only power they have is to prevent and limit our drive to create, ourselves, what we need as individuals and communities.*

"Existence is a fact, it's not a right" -Fifteen